

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. NON-PRIOR ART MATTERS.

This paper is filed in response to official Office Action dated April 20, 2004. Entrance of the above amendments and consideration of the response herein is earnestly solicited.

Initially the claims were rejected for double-patenting. Accompanying this amendment is a terminal disclaimer. Withdrawal of this rejection is appropriately requested.

Claims 33, 44 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Claims 33 and 34 have been canceled. Claim 47 has been amended as proposed by the Examiner. This rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

II. PRIOR ART MATTERS

The Office Action rejected claims 46-50 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Walker, Jr..

A single prior art reference anticipates a claimed invention only if it discloses each and every claim element. ¹

However, Walker is missing any disclosure or suggestion of spring clips as admitted by the Examiner on page 5 of the Office Action. Claim 46 should be allowable as anticipation has not been shown. Further still, the spring clips 77 of Mancini, Jr., are clearly unlikely the spring clips 20 of the present invention. Mancini, Jr., rather, shows the use of a pin and a bail for retaining the pin in place.

Claim 51 and 52 were rejected as being obvious. However, these claims depend from allowable independent claim 46 and therefore should also be allowable as they are further limiting over independent claim 46.

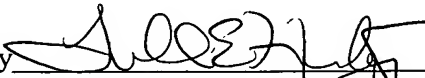
¹ *Structural Rubber Prod. Co. v. Park Rubber Co.*, 749 F.2d 707, 223 USPQ 1264 (Fed. Cir. 1984)

The remaining obviousness rejections are rendered moot as Applicant has canceled those particular claims.

Should the Examiner have any other questions or comments, he is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned. Otherwise, an allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 20 July 04

By 
Gerald E. Helget (Reg. No. 30,948)
BRIGGS AND MORGAN
2200 IDS Center
80 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 977-8480